Testimony of the Connecticut Audubon Society to the Environment Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly in strong support of sections 5,7,8 and 9 of S.B. No. 238 An Act Concerning Revisions To Certain Environment Related Statutes.

March 13, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to lend our strong support to this important proposal.

The Connecticut Audubon Society thanks the Committee and the sponsors of **S.B. No. 238 An Act Concerning Revisions To Certain Environment Related Statutes** for this important proposal and for the opportunity to express our strong support this important measure. Of particular interest to the Connecticut Audubon Society are sections 5, 7, 8 and 9, which pertain to fire protection and the Connecticut Forest Practices Act. As executive director of the Connecticut Audubon Society I sit on the Connecticut Forest Practices Advisory Board in a position appointed by former Governor Malloy as the representative of an environmental N.G.O. not primarily focused on forests. These provisions of the proposed legislation have been reviewed and endorsed by the Board for the last several years and we feel it is of the utmost importance to move forward with this bill. Of particular importance is the need to clarify appointment authorities for the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important matter.

Patrick M. Comins, Executive Director

Founded in 1898, the Connecticut Audubon Society is an independent organization that conserves Connecticut's environment through science-based education and advocacy focused on the state's bird populations and habitats. We own and manage 20 preserves covering more than 3,300 acres in all areas of the state, and we work with landowners to help them manage their land for the benefit of birds and other wildlife.